

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR EG US

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR SADAT VISIT

1. SUMMARY: THIS CABLE RECOMMENDS THAT SADAT VISIT TO US BE HANDLED IN SUCH A MANNER THAT IMAGE OF NEW ERA OF US-GOE RELATIONS BASED ON SOLID, LONG-TERM MUTUAL INTERESTS COMES ACROSS AS STRONGLY AS SPECIAL ROLE OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND HIS PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS WITH US LEADERS. END SUMMARY

2. SADAT VISIT MARKS THE END OF A SHORT, HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL CHAPTER IN HISTORY OF US-GOE RELATIONS, CHARACTERIZED BY FRENETIC ACTIVITY, INTENSE NEGOTIATIONS, AND SERIES OF AD HOC USG DECISIONS ON AID, STAFFING, AND PROGRAMS. THIS CHAPTER HAS PRODUCED MAJOR BENEFITS FOR THE US, NOT JUST ON ME SETTLEMENT, BUT ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY THROUGHOUT MUCH OF THE ARAB WORLD.

3. THERE IS NO QUESTION IN OUR MIND THAT PRESIDENT SADAT WAS AND IS THE KEY ELEMENT IN TURNING SITUATION AROUND AND HIS VISIT TO US DESERVES TO BE PERSONAL TRIUMPH AND TRIBUTE TO HIS STATESMANSHIP. US MEDIA IN ANY CASE, WILL I ASSUME REQUIRE NO URGING TO FOCUS ON PRES AND MRS. SADAT'S ACTIVITIES AND PERSONALITIES. WE ARE CONFIDENT THEY WILL MAKE HIGHLY FAVORABLE IMPACT.

4. SADAT'S VISIT ALSO MARKS BEGINNING OF WHAT WE HOPE WILL BE A NEW ERA IN US-GOE RELATIONS, DURING WHICH WE WILL PURSUE LONG RANGE POLICIES, GIVE GREATER DEPTH AND BREADTH TO OUR
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BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP AND TAKE OTHER STEPS NECESSARY TO ASSURE

THAT OUR RELATIONSHIP SURVIVES SADAT. (OUR VIEWS ON WHAT SADAT WILL BE LOOKING FOR IN WAY OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IN THE FUTURE ERA HAVE BEEN SENT IN SEPARATE CABLES).

5. MAIN ARAB CHARGE AGAINST SADAT IS THAT HE HAS SOLD OUT SYRIA AND PALESTINIANS IN RETURN FOR PEACE ON EGYPTIAN FRONT AND US ASSISTANCE, AND WITHOUT LESSENING IN ANY WAY US COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL. SADAT'S VISIT TO US WILL BE SEEN BY THESE ARAB CIRCLES AS PAYOFF AND EVIDENCE THAT HE PERSONALLY HAS BECOME "CHOSEN INSTRUMENT" OF US POLICY. CONSEQUENTLY, I BELIEVE IT WOULD BEST SERVE US INTERESTS (AND SADAT'S TOO) IN EGYPT AND THE AREA IF WE ARE ABLE TO PORTRAY VISIT NOT ONLY AS TRIBUTE TO SADAT, BUT ALSO TO EGYPT AND TO KIND OF BROAD FUNDAMENTIAL RELATIONSHIP WE ARE DEVELOPING WITH IT.

6. HOW EGYPTIANS PLAY VISIT FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION IS, OF COURSE, UP TO THEM AND IT WILL PROBABLY BE HIGHLY PERSONALIZED.
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